Indian Stamps Act, 1899 lays down the mechanism for placing requirements by the States/Union Territories of Judicial and non-Judicial Stamps & stamps papers, their distribution, custody and sale as also their Accounts, Returns etc.,

(b) to (d) Details are being obtained from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

New monetary and credit policy for co-operative banks

2125. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Reserve Bank of India for a fresh look at the new monetary and credit policy in so for as it affects the co-operative banking sector in the context of cash crunch faced by the co-operative banks, arising from the requirement of investing a large portion of SLR funds in Government securities;

(b) whether requests have also been received from Co-operative Banking Sector in other States; and

(c) if so, the RBI's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not recently received any request from the Government of Maharashtra. However, representations from several Banking Federations and others have been received seeking fresh look at the monetary and credit policy. And the existing RBI guidelines 19.4.2001 to Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) to achieve higher percentage of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) in Government and other approved securities in a specified time frame given as under:

Category of UCBs	Investment in Govt, and other approved securities as a percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)			
	Prior to March 31, 2002	To achieve on or before March 31, 2002	to achieve by September 30, 2002	After April 1, 2003
Scheduled UCBs	15%	17.5%	20%	25%

Category of UCBs Investment in Govt, and other approved securities as a percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)

	Prior to March 31, 2002	To achieve on or before March 31, 2002	to achieve by September 30, 2002	After April 1, 2003
Non-scheduled UCBs				
(i) With NDTL of Rs. 25 crores & above	10%	12.5%	15%	15%
(ii) With NDTL of less than Rs. 25 crore	Nil	7.5%	10%	10%

As indicated above, the UCBs were given adequate time to switch over from the deposits with DCCBs/SCBs to Government securities. As on December 26,2003,1139 banks have complied with RBI's instructions relating to investment in Government Securities. In view of the systemic risk involved, a modification or the above guidelines has not been found feasible at this stage.

India Sovereign Bonds

2126. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to explore fresh investment avenues for growth in India;

(b) If so, whether Government propose to raise $ 5 million from overseas markets in the form of India Sovereign Bonds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the salient features of the proposed Indian Sovereign Bonds; and

(e) the manner in which the proposed funds are likely to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Assistance to Karnataka by NABARD

2127. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by NABARD to Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the areas where investment has been made and the extent thereof;